



Discipleship Guide

Sermon: "Roll The Stone Away" | Glory Sunday
Speaker: Pastor John Eric Zayas

Date: April 12th, 2026

Text: John 11 (Lazarus Raised to Life)

Key Theme

Jesus is the resurrection and the life—and His glory is revealed when we trust Him beyond what we can see.

Scripture Focus

- *“But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”* — John 11:22
 - *“Your brother will rise again.”* — John 11:23
 - *“Where have you laid him?”* — John 11:34
 - *“Jesus wept.”* — John 11:35
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Teaching Points

1. Resurrection Requires Faith—And Growing Faith

Faith isn't static. It stretches.

- It's not just believing once—it's believing again and again, even when nothing changes.
- The tension: persistence vs. hesitation

Reflection Question:

Where have I stopped believing because it didn't happen quickly?

2. We Have Direct Access to the Father

There is no hesitation in heaven—only invitation.

- We don't have to filter our prayers or go through anyone else.
- We come boldly, confidently, honestly.

Truth:

Your Father already knows what you need—but still invites you to ask.

Reflection Question:

Do I pray like God is close—or like He needs convincing?

3. God's Purpose Is Bigger Than Our Perspective

What looks like delay... is often divine intention.

- Lazarus died—but Jesus saw resurrection.
- The Gospel truth:
“Even though he dies, he lives.”

Reflection Question:

Can I trust God's purpose even when I don't understand His timing?

4. The “Us” Response vs. The “God” Response

- Human Response (v.22):
“God can do something...”
- Jesus' Response (v.23):
“It *will* happen.”

God doesn't speak in possibility—He speaks in certainty.

Reflection Question:

Am I interpreting my situation through doubt or through His Word?

5. Glory Often Requires Death First

Before resurrection comes surrender.

- For God to be glorified in greater measure, something must die.
- Not always physically—but spiritually:
 - Pride
 - Fear
 - Control
 - Sin
 - Old identity

Heart Posture:

“Lord, crucify this thing.”

6. Bring Jesus to the Dead Thing

Even though He knows—He still asks:

“Where did you lay him?”

- God invites participation + confession
- Don’t hide it.
- Don’t dress it up.
- Show Him.

Reflection Question:

What “dead thing” do I need to bring before Jesus?

7. Jesus Is Compassionate in the Process

Before He raised Lazarus... He wept.

- He stands with you
- He feels with you
- He calls you friend

Truth:

God is not distant from your pain—He is present in it.

8. Pain Has Purpose

Jesus:

- Prophesied before it
- Waited through it
- Felt it with them
- Resurrected it

Pain is not the end—it’s often the platform for glory.

9. Don’t Become Comfortable in Distance

A warning:

Don’t become people who doubt... or grow cozy far from God.

Faith requires closeness.

Reflection Question:

Have I drifted into comfort instead of pursuing God?

10. Be Unshaken in Christ

Voices will come. Doubt will come.

But:

“I am not shaken. I am unmovable in Christ.”

Glory Sunday: 5-Day Devotional

Theme: From Death to Glory (John 11)

Day 1: Faith That Persists

Scripture: John 11:22

“But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

Reflection

Martha believed—but her faith had limits.

She knew Jesus could do something... but she didn't fully grasp what He was about to do.

And if we're honest, we live there too.

We pray, but with hesitation.

We believe, but with conditions.

We trust—until things take too long.

But resurrection kind of faith doesn't stop when things look final.

It persists.

Faith grows when it's stretched.

And sometimes, the waiting is where your faith deepens the most.

Ask Yourself

Where has my faith become hesitant instead of persistent?

Prayer

Jesus, grow my faith beyond what I can see.

Help me to trust You, even when nothing is changing.

Teach me to persist—not pull back. Amen.

Day 2: Come Boldly to the Father

Scripture: Matthew 6:8

“Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.”

Reflection

Somewhere along the way, many of us learned to hold back with God.

To filter our prayers.
To only bring the “important” things.
To not “bother” Him too much.

But Jesus shows us something different:

You have access.

You don’t have to earn it.
You don’t have to go through anyone else.
You don’t have to clean yourself up first.

Your Father knows—and still invites you to ask.

Bold prayer is not arrogance.
It’s relationship.

Ask Yourself

Do I approach God with confidence—or hesitation?

Prayer

Father, thank You that I can come to You freely.
Break every lie that tells me to hold back.
Teach me to pray with boldness and trust. Amen.

Day 3: Surrender Before Resurrection

Scripture: John 11:34
“Where have you laid him?”

Reflection

Before Jesus raises Lazarus, He asks where he was buried.

Not because He didn’t know—
but because He wanted them to bring Him to it.

God doesn’t just move in what we hide.

He moves in what we surrender.

For glory to come, something must die.

Sometimes it's not the situation—
it's what's in us:

Control.

Pride.

Fear.

Unforgiveness.

Resurrection often begins with a prayer like this:

“Lord, crucify this.”

Ask Yourself

What am I holding onto that I need to bring before Jesus?

Prayer

Jesus, I bring You every hidden and broken place.

Crucify what needs to die in me.

I trust You with it. Amen.

Day 4: God Is With You in the Pain

Scripture: John 11:35

“*Jesus wept.*”

Reflection

Jesus knew He was about to raise Lazarus.

And still—He wept.

That means something powerful:

God doesn't skip over your pain just because He has a plan.

He stands with you in it.

He feels it with you.

He calls you *friend* in the middle of it.

You are not alone in your grief.

You are not unseen in your struggle.

Your pain matters to Him.

And even more—your pain has purpose.

Ask Yourself

Do I believe God is present with me in my pain?

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for being near.

Thank You for caring about what I feel.

Help me to trust that You are with me—even here. Amen.

Day 5: Roll the Stone Away

Scripture: John 11:39

“Take away the stone.”

Reflection

Jesus could have moved the stone Himself.

But He didn't.

He asked them to do it.

Because faith isn't just belief—it's action.

There are stones in our lives:

- Fear of disappointment
- Doubt
- Comfort in what's familiar
- Settling for less

And Jesus is asking:

Do you trust Me enough to move it?

Even when it feels too far gone.

Even when others doubt.

Even when it's been “four days.”

Roll the stone away.

Because what Jesus speaks... lives.

Ask Yourself

What “stone” do I need to move in faith?

Prayer

**Jesus, give me the courage to act in faith.
Help me to trust Your Word over what I see.
I choose to believe You can bring life again. Amen.**

Closing Reflection

Jesus is still the resurrection and the life.

**He sees what feels dead.
He meets you in your pain.
He invites your faith.
He calls for your surrender.**

And then—He speaks life.

**So don't hesitate.
Don't withdraw.
Don't get comfortable far from Him.**

**Be unshaken.
Be persistent.
Be expectant.**

Because glory is coming.